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TURKS AND CAICOS, SERENITY NOW! {page 15}

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PHILADELPHIA
Tuesday, June 26, 2012

KEVIN COOK/METRO

Price tag for happiness: $30 million

Expensive, sure, but SEPTA riders call subway overhauls 'great' {page 02}

▶ Federal stimulus money spent over three years went not only to new elevators at the stations at Girard and Spring Garden, pictured, but also floor art.

Sports

Angelo Cataldi is back where he belongs

- Talk show host, columnist returns after painful surgery
- What got him through? Sports, of course {page 16}

Graphic disdain from Bourdain

Finally, we learn what the chef thinks of those who order California roll {page 17}

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Trooper charged in fatal turnpike crash

Montgomery County District Attorney Risa Vetri Ferman yesterday announced the arrest of Pennsylvania State Trooper Barry Searfoss Jr., who is charged with homicide by vehicle while under the influence for a fatal May 18 crash.

Investigators said Searfoss had a blood alcohol level of .188 percent and was driving over the speed limit while traveling home from a charity golf tournament. The fundraiser was held in memory of a Bucks County woman killed by a careless driver in 1997.

Searfoss allegedly rear-ended a car driven by North Philadelphia woman Robin Taneisha Williams, 21, around 10 p.m. on the Pennsylvania Turnpike in Upper Dublin Township.

Police said Williams was driving slowly due to mechanical problems that were causing her car to break down. She died of blunt force injuries, burns and smoke inhalation stemming from the crash, according to autopsy results.

Searfoss was arraigned yesterday and his bail was set at 10 percent of $50,000. He is ordered to surrender his license and stay away from alcohol, as well as the witnesses named in the complaint.

His preliminary hearing is set for July 5 in Ambler.

ALEX WIGGLESWORTH

Brighter commutes from subway station overhauls

Three years and $30 million later, two subway stations dating to 1920s get makeovers Officially ends SEPTA's biggest project of stimulus funds

The most expensive and most visible project of SEPTA's nearly $200 million in federal stimulus spending was marked by a ribbon-cutting yesterday at the Spring Garden subway station, which along with the Girard Avenue station received a combined $30 million makeover.

It was the largest of 32 projects SEPTA completed with $191 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. It was also the first time the stations had undergone major renovations since they were built in the 1920s.

The improvements involved nearly every aspect of the stations, including the installation of elevators, new street-level stairwells, cashier booths and fare lines, repairs to the ceiling, walls and platforms, along with new lighting and signage. SEPTA also commissioned permanent artwork from local artists through the SEPTA Art in Transit program. In total, the project involved dozens of contractors and 507 construction jobs, officials said.

PHOTOS: KEVIN COOK/METRO

Customers warmed quickly to new and improved stations.

During the three-year project, SEPTA kept both stations open with minimal inconvenience to riders.

Some passengers said the amenities make the station much more inviting.

"It's clean," Andrene Grizzle, a New Jersey resident, said of the platform area. "It's important because, believe it or not, appearance does add to safety or feeling safe. ... If the station seems clean and nice, I'll want to come here."

South Philadelphia resident Bri Kurmue also recognized the cleanliness and the artwork. "Actually, it looks great. They [the stations] both look beautiful and I love the colors."

Denice Brown, a member of SEPTA's Advisory Council and an advocate for the disabled, said the elevators will enable more disabled riders to take the subway and shorten their trip.

"This really opens it up for more people. It makes it easier and makes it more convenient," she said.

SOLOMON D. LEACH
sleach@metro.us

Quoted

"This is what infrastructure renewal is all about. It's about jobs, it's about putting people to work."

MAYOR MICHAEL NUTTER

Stations are part of bigger transit plans

The renovation to the two key stations not only benefits passengers, but is a critical component to transit-oriented development (TOD) along North Broad Street, said Council President Darrell Clarke.

Clarke cited developer Bart Blatstein's conversion of the former state building at Spring Garden into luxury apartments with retail space and another developer's residential project near the Temple University regional rail station in North Philadelphia. Both projects are being done, in part, because of their close proximity to public transportation.

The city has been working with developers to identify other opportunities for TODs, which typically feature less parking and promote pedestrian travel.

In the news

Bizarre beachside banner

A celebration of World Swastika Rehabilitation Day drew befuddled looks from onlookers who saw a banner promoting the controversial symbol, according to the International Raelian Movement, a religious organization that hired the swastika banner-towing plane — which also bore the address of website ProSwastika.org — to fly along the Jersey coastline Sunday.

METRO

In the news

Buggy driver dragged, killed

A buggy driver died Sunday in Lancaster County after he was dragged by a runaway horse towing a carriage, according to a report from the Intelligencer Journal-Lancaster New Era. Officials told the paper that the man, who was killed around 4:30 p.m. in Strasburg Township, worked for a local business that offers buggy tours.

Williams

Murder suspect found dead in jail

GRAYS FERRY. A suspect arrested Sunday in connection with a double shooting that killed a mother of five was discovered dead in a holding cell early yesterday.

Officials at the police headquarters detention unit found Shekinah Williams, 28, hanging by a T-shirt from the ceiling of a cell around 3 a.m.

Williams and another man allegedly exchanged gunfire that afternoon, hitting bystander Clarice Douglas in the crossfire.

METRO/AW

I-95 called 'monstrosity' by architects

PHILADELPHIA. California Home + Design magazine has included the stretch of I-95 running through the city in its list of "25 Buildings to Demolish Right Now," a nationwide compilation created by 15 architects and staffers.

Though the highway is not actually a building, as the authors note in the preface of their criticism, they denounce the "monstrosity" as a relic of 1960s car culture that cuts off residents from the waterfront.

METRO

One finalist down, another to go for top city schools job

Candidate from Maryland gets meet-and-greet with Philly shareholders tonight He comes with both criticism, credit for improving student achievement

Hite has been "quite successful," according to his district's school board chairwoman.

One of two finalists vying to be the next superintendent of Philadelphia public schools is facing strong criticism from some parents in his current district for a lack of transparency and responsiveness.

William Hite Jr. is the superintendent of Prince George's Public County Schools, Maryland's second-largest school system and the 18th-largest in the country. He is being vetted for the job along with Pedro Martinez, deputy superintendent in Clark County, Nev., to replace Arlene Ackerman who left the Philadelphia School District last August after a rocky three-year stint. District officials could make a selection within the next week.

"I've e-mailed everybody from top to bottom about what was going on in the schools and nothing was done."
FREDDIE MITCHELL JR.

Hite, who was named Prince George's superintendent in 2009 after serving as deputy superintendent, has been credited by some with increasing student achievement in the district, but he has also had his detractors. A group of parents has taken a vote of no-confidence in Hite and started an online petition calling for his removal, citing nepotism and professional misconduct. As of yesterday, the petition had 161 signatures.

"Nobody's accountable for anything," said Freddie Mitchell Jr., who signed the petition and has five children in the PGC system. He said three of his children were assaulted at school and he has gotten no response from administrators.

1,300
Jacobs said many of Hite's critics are disgruntled about the 1,300 layoffs the district has had due to budget cuts.

"I've e-mailed everybody from top to bottom about what was going on in the schools and nothing was done," he said.

Like Philadelphia, Prince George's County has struggled financially, cutting $450 million over the last three years. Verjeana Jacobs, who chairs PGC's nine-member board, said Hite has managed the system well.

"Our work with Dr. Hite has been quite successful. We have seen gains within student achievement that's been steady regardless of the cuts in dollars and cuts in our budget," she said.

Jacobs said many of Hite's critics are disgruntled about the 1,300 layoffs the district has had due to budget cuts.

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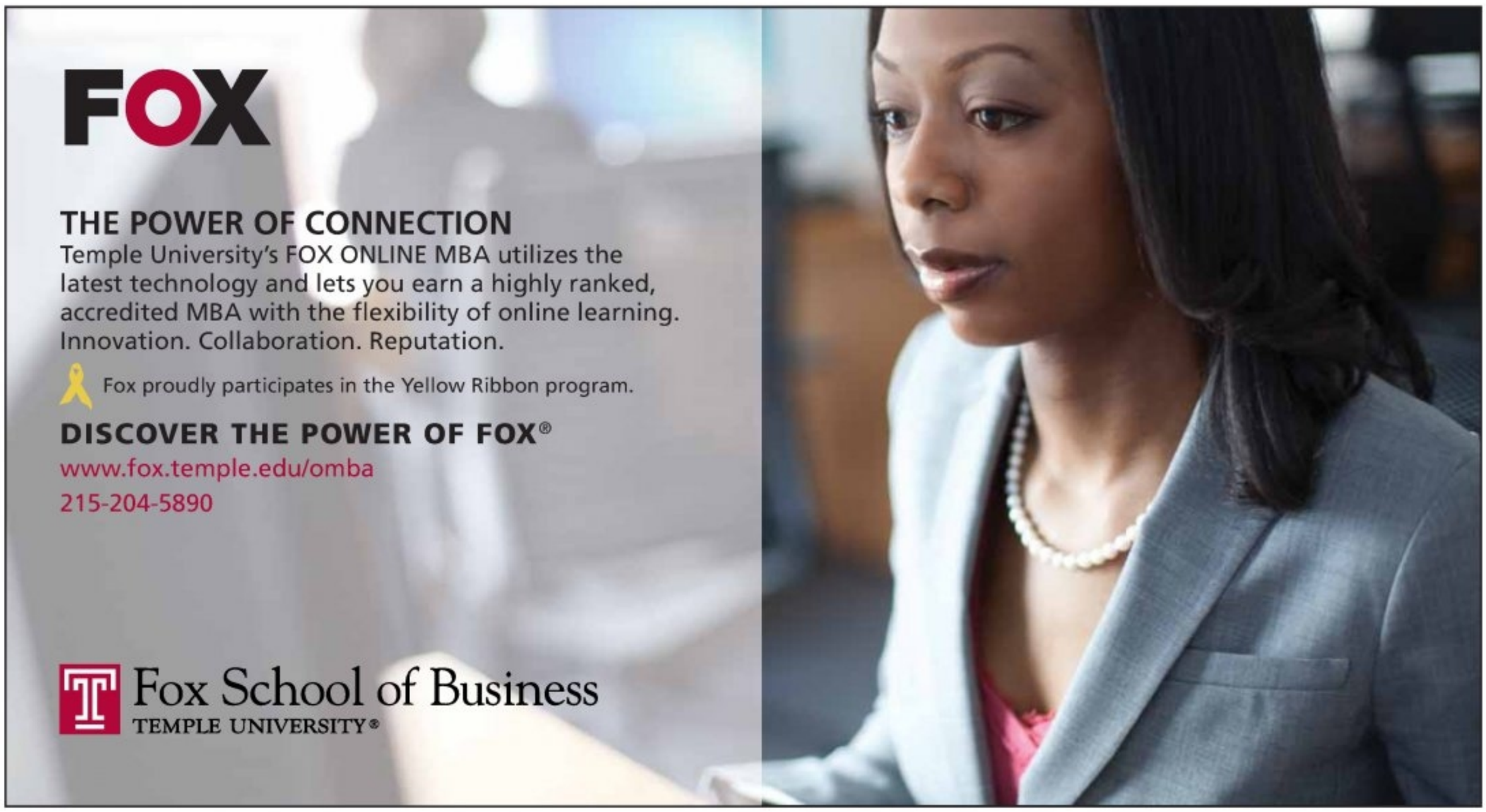
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Crime. Park shooting

▶ Four people were hospitalized after two men let loose a hail of bullets in this park during a basketball game in Olney on Sunday night.

PAIGE OZAROSKI/METRO

Bloodshed after basketball court gunfire

Police said gunmen opened fire on the Kemble Park basketball court near West Olney and Ogontz avenues shortly before 7:30 p.m. Sunday. A woman, 20, was shot in the thigh, two 20-year-old men were each struck in the shin and another man, whose age is unknown, suffered a graze wound to the ankle. The two suspects fled north on 16th Street. The shooting brought violent crime victims this past weekend to 17 people. METRO

Feds throw life vest to city drowning in crime

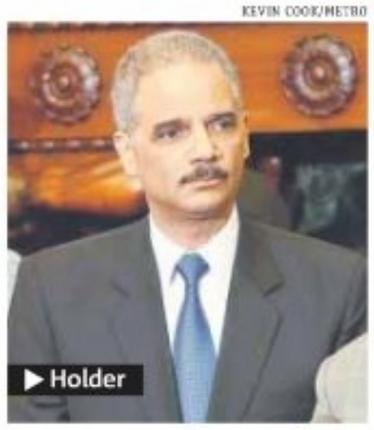
In the wake of a crime wave that claimed the lives of four people and injured 13 others in less than 48 hours this weekend, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder appeared at City Hall with Mayor Michael Nutter yesterday to announce a federal grant that will put more officers on the street.

"It is especially fitting to speak of liberty here in Philadelphia, which — to help build on this city's model community policing efforts — will be receiving more than $3 million to hire 25 military veterans to serve as law enforcement officers," Holder said.

The grant issued through the Department of Justice's Community Oriented Policing Program is part of $111 million allotted for new officer hiring nationwide.

"Both fiscal need and fiscal responsibility factor into the selection of grantees, along with local crime rates, and most importantly is cities' strategic community policing strategy for lowing those crime rates," said program director Bernard Melekian.

KEVIN COOK/METRO



▶ Holder

"We're at a point where we'll take whatever we can get."
PHILADELPHIA POLICE COMMISSIONER CHARLES RAMSEY

The infusion of manpower comes on top of the 400 new hires Nutter already budgeted in March with a goal of maintaining 6,500 officers on the force for the next five years.

"We're at a point where we'll take whatever we can get," said Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey, who said that when he joined the force, "probably 96 percent" of officers were veterans. "Now that's changed — not that that's a bad thing — but just having the discipline of the military is very helpful," he said.

Ramsey said the money is coming at a critical time for his officers, who know "how desperately we need this infusion of resources. I don't have to tell them that," he said. "They've been up against it for a period of time now and relief is coming, it's on the way."

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Education in brief

Local students tackle city policy

Six local graduate students will be serving internships analyzing policy issues for Philadelphia's City Council.

"I am pleased to announce the creation of the Research Bureau, which will conduct critical analysis of public policy for City Council," said City Council President Darrell L. Clarke. "We have bright, energetic Fellows eager to help us improve Philadelphia government and tackle problems that plague major cities across the country."

The six are Theodore Patestos from Rutgers-Camden; Javier Garcia, Frank Iannuzzi and Steve Kucera from Temple University; Alison Perelman from the University of Pennsylvania; and Michelle Yee from Widener University School of Law.

The students will provide reports for the use of City Council. They will not themselves draft legislation or perform constituent services.

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Never stop exploring

Philly-based Writers Matter program heads to the Middle East

In a world where people communicate through texts and YouTube videos, traditional writing skills seem hopelessly old-fashioned. Not so, says Robert Vogel, professor of education at La Salle University. He is the founder and director of a program called Writers Matter, which serves almost 1,000 kids per year in Philadelphia-area middle schools.

"Students that age have difficulty communicating," Vogel says. "They can be very verbal — but they don't say everything they think and feel. In the right environment, they can communicate things that they'd never ever say in front of people. Then, once it's on paper, they're willing to share it, even reading their writing in front of their peers."

More importantly, participants in the program are better able to communicate with each other. Racial stereotypes and cliques break down as students become more confident while their writing skills improve.

So Vogel was thrilled when Samir Adwan, a Palestinian who teaches at Bethlehem University, wanted to bring the Writers Matter program to the Middle East. Three schools in Israel — one Arab, one Jewish and one with a mix of Arab and Jewish students — began the program last fall.

COURTESY ROBERT VOGEL

▶ Israeli and Palestinian Writers Matter students exchange gifts in Jerusalem.

Get involved

For more information about Writers Matter, visit the website at www.writersmatteratlasalle.com.

The group is currently seeking funding to extend the program in the Middle East for a second year. If you'd like to support those efforts financially, you can contact Vogel at vogel@lasalle.edu.

Vogel and a small group of La Salle students went to Jerusalem for the final sessions of the year, which were held jointly at the Arab-Jewish school. This was the first time the three groups met each other. Despite some understandable awkwardness at the beginning, the students found common ground among themselves and shared their wishes for peace and understanding.

JUDY WEIGHTMAN
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Charlie Suero, student

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THE WORD

Metro's **Monica Weymouth** shares her take on the world of gossip @monicaatmetro monica.weymouth@metro.us

Anthony Bourdain: Off with their heads

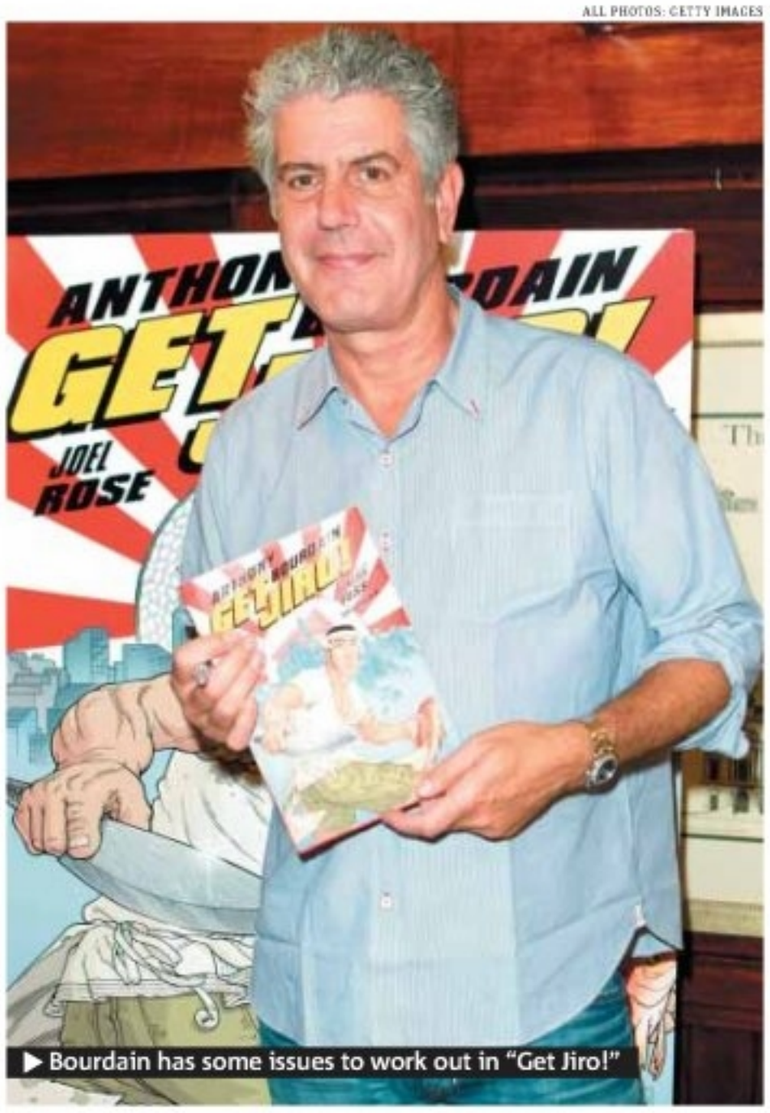
Somewhere between continent-hopping and mysterious cauldrons of soup, chef and "No Reservations" host **Anthony Bourdain** found the time to pen a graphic novel. Part kitchen revenge fantasy, part kung-fu foodie fun, "Get Jiro!" includes a scene in which a man is decapitated for ordering a blasphemous California roll.

"There are people who work 60 years trying to get the same 20 to 25 pieces of classic sushi perfect, but they know they will never reach that point. That kind of drive for perfection deserves respect," Bourdain told us when we caught up with him this week in New York City. "So when you see somebody go into a regular sushi bar and treat it like it's crap or just another meal, well, I fantasized about seeing somebody lose their head!"

We wonder what the recommended punishment would be for a sriracha sprinkle. Not that we'd ever do that. We're just wondering — for our friends, whose heads aren't ours.

— With reporting by Raishad Hardnett

ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES



▶ Bourdain has some issues to work out in "Get Jiro!"

Courtney Love is being Courtney Love

One of **Courtney Love**'s less destructive habits is throwing around lawsuits — in 2009, the rocker put her legal team on 14 cases in 10 months. But apparently, she forgot to pay for their many services: The rocker is being sued by her former lawyers for almost half a million in legal bills, reports TMZ.

Although she sent flowers and thank-you gifts, the suit alleges that the rare checks bounced, and that Love used her funds to pay for a gaggle of personal assistants.

There's something refreshingly Courtney Love about getting sued by your lawyer — like a cool June breeze, or burying the gardener. Never change, Court.

Classy? Whatever, we'll count it

While Playboy is nothing new for **Jenny McCarthy,** she is especially pleased with her photos in the upcoming July issue.

"I'm really proud of it," the actress tells People.com of the shoot, her seventh for the magazine. "They're really elegant. It's probably a lot more sophisticated than a lot of the stuff you'd see of people with their clothes on."

On the one hand, she's completely naked on the cover, wearing only fingerless mesh gloves. On the other, there is a **Wes Anderson** coverline creeping over her thigh-high leather boots. So, sure: Sophisticated it is.

Talking points

R.I.P., Lonesome George

Lonesome George, the last known Pinta Island tortoise, has passed away after 100 years, reports BBC News. He was found dead early Monday morning at the Galapagos National Park in Ecuador by his keeper of 40 years. A true celebrity if there ever was one, George was known as the rarest creature in the world and became a mascot of sorts for the Galapagos Islands. He is survived by no offspring, relatives or members of the same subspecies, but will be missed by a number of Espanola Island female tortoises who kept him company in recent years.

Young Hollywood parties it up

Robert Pattinson and **Kristen Stewart** turned heads at the star-studded wedding of Hollywood producer **Kevin Turen** and **Evelina Oboza** in New Jersey over the weekend, according to Us Weekly, partying with guests until 7 a.m. and engaging in some fairly public displays of affection. "Rob and Kristen were all over each other," a source says. Pattinson also got a chance to let loose with **Andrew Garfield** and **Zac Efron** during the reception: "Rob sang, Andrew played the bongos, Zac played the guitar. It was a whole spectacle," says the source.

▶ Williams

Happy times for Michelle Williams

Things seem to be going well on the romance front for **Michelle Williams** and **Jason Segel**. Williams "hasn't been this happy in forever," a source tells People magazine of the couple, who made a brief appearance at the after-party for the premiere of her new film, "Take This Waltz," in New York late last week. Segel, for his part, is just as happy. "Jason is totally smitten," the source says.

2

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Joan Rivers will be first in line to see "The Amazing Spider-Man," Dave Chappelle is feeling the pressure, Diane Keaton needs some help and Albert Brooks is keeping an eye out.

@Joan_Rivers
Who is Hollywood's hottest couple? Emma Stone and Andrew Garfield! They're like Brangelina, but without the child labor.

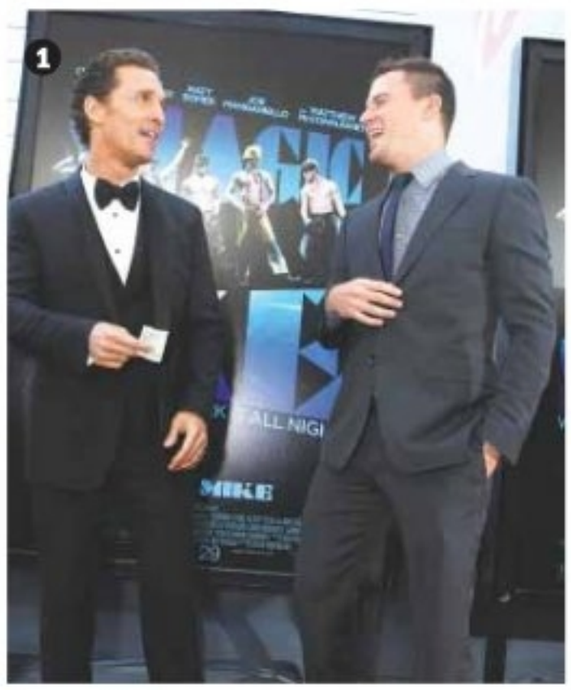
@DaveChappelle
I can't think of anything provocative to tweet, and yet, I must continue...
Must...keep....tweeting.

@Diane_Keaton
Researching for my next book concept. What is your idea of beauty? Talk to me.

@AlbertBrooks
I might be crazy but I'm positive I saw Mubarak at the mall today.

Chappelle

The dogs days aren't over



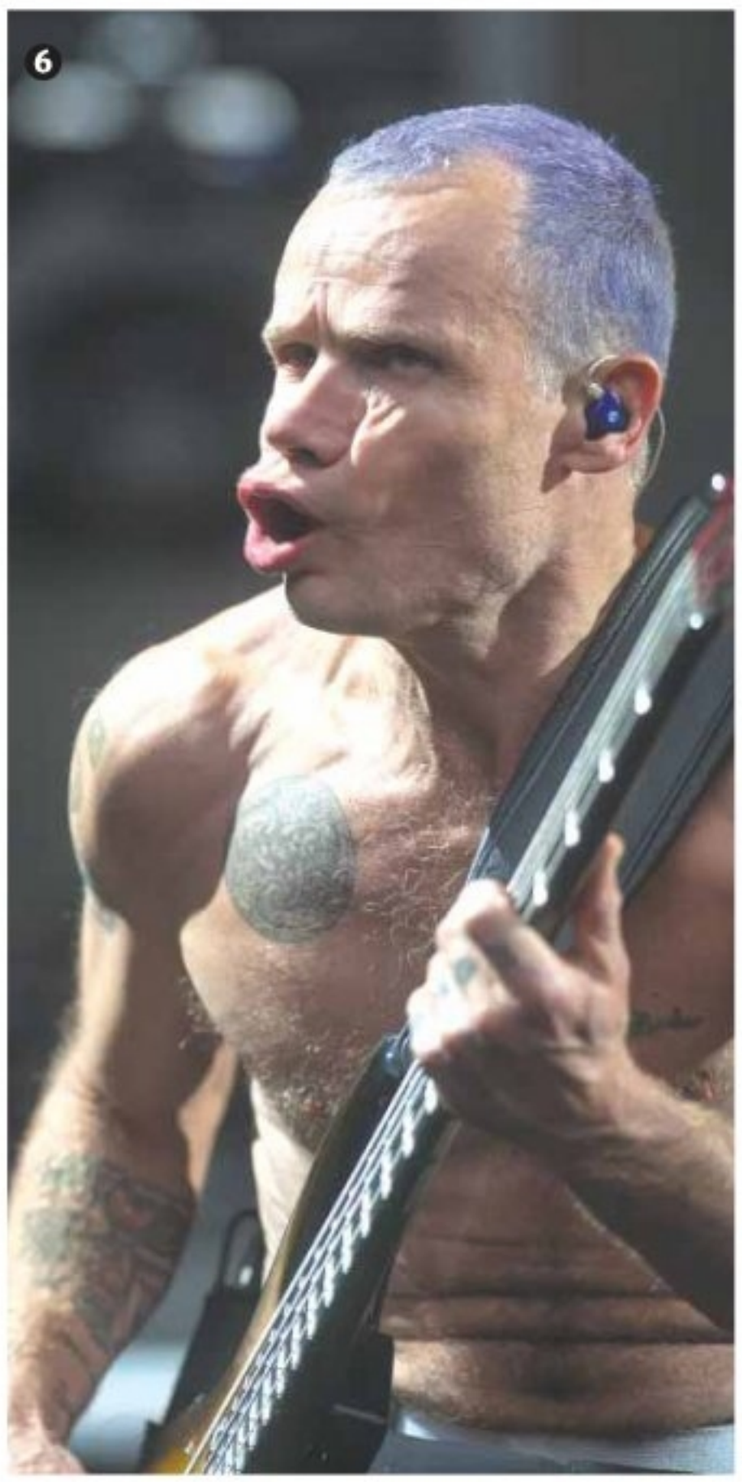
1 **Channing Tatum** and **Matthew McConaughey** hit the red carpet Sunday night for the premiere of their new stripper film, "Magic Mike." You'll apparently have to pay to see a little skin.

2 **Florence Welch** of Florence and the Machine was rocking out Sunday in London.

3 Does **Mariah Carey** have a patent on this pose yet? The singer was wiggling around London yesterday.

4 **Uggie**, breakout star of "The Artist," was immortalized with a paw print at Grauman's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood yesterday.

5 Saucy minx alert: **Florence Henderson** — aka Mrs. Brady — was down in Sydney, Australia, yesterday to promote tomato sauce and/or killing it in your 70s.



6 **Flea** of the Red Hot Chilli Peppers was earning his paycheck Sunday night in the U.K.

1: ERIC CHARBONNEAU/GETTY IMAGES
2: DAVE HOGAN/GETTY IMAGES
3: DAVID LIVINGSTON/GETTY IMAGES
6: KEVIN MAZUR/WIREIMAGE
5: DON ARNOLD/WIREIMAGE
6: MARC MARNIE/REDFERNS

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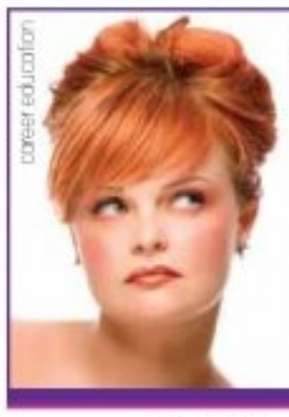

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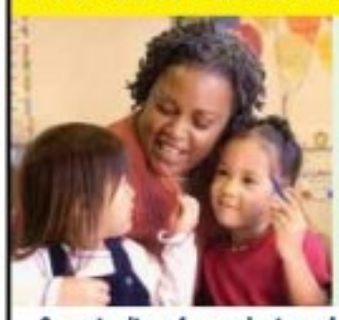

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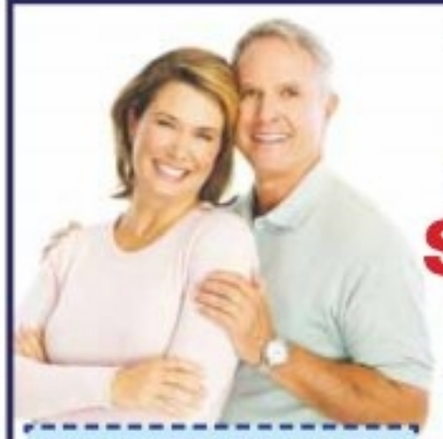

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Grit and grits: An interview with chef Marcus Samuelsson

TV watch list

'U.S. Olympic Team Trials: Swimming Finals'

SPORTS. Get a glimpse of the Americans you'll be rooting for in London. And maybe make a drinking game out of it: For every time the announcers mention how Michael Phelps recently shaved his mustache, you take a swig of beer, and for every time they mention his marijuana use, do a shot. After doing either, you should definitely chant, "U.S.A.! U.S.A.!" 8 p.m., NBC

STREETER LECKA/GETTY IMAGES

▶ No, it's not Ali G, it's Michael Phelps

'Fact or Faked: Paranormal Files'

REALITY. With two back-to-back episodes ending their second season of eerie interrogations, the gang explores a surveillance specter, a morgue mystery, Stonehenge secrets and an Iceland worm monster! We can only hope for the good of the world that the Iceland worm monster is faked. 8 p.m. and 9 p.m., SyFy PAT HEALY

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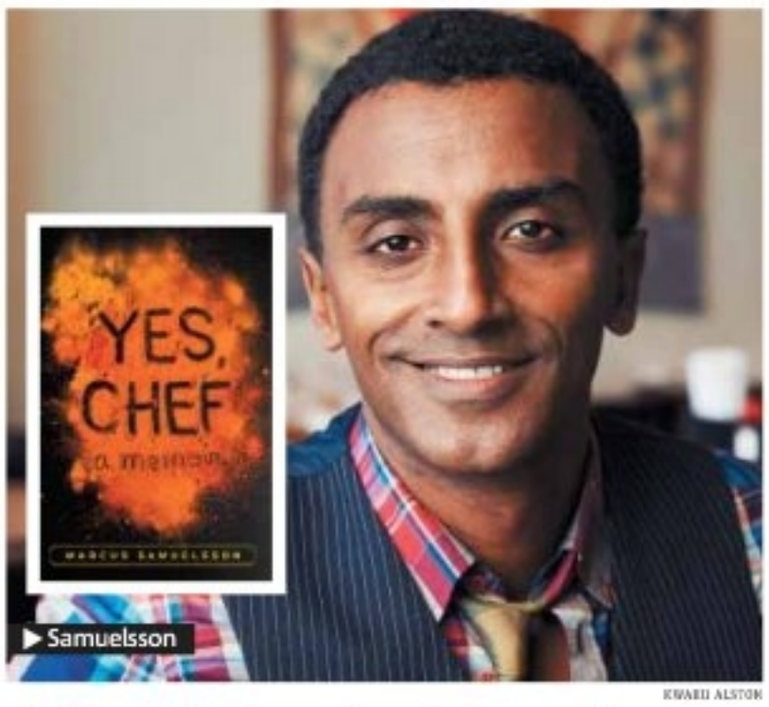
Marcus Samuelsson's new memoir, 'Yes, Chef' shows us the many faces of soul food How he's relearning the cuisine of his roots



KWAKU ALSTON

How do you define Marcus Samuelsson's cuisine? The term "fusion" feels dated and limiting. Rather, it's a cuisine that's greater than the sum of its influences — Swedish, Ethiopian and African-American, all of which he comes by honestly. Samuelsson, who was born into extreme poverty in rural Ethiopia, was adopted at two by Swedish parents and spent years laboring in European kitchens, where he frequently endured racism. His hard work came to fruition in New York City's Harlem neighborhood where Samuelsson opened upscale soul-food joint Red Rooster in 2010.

Now, at 42, he's written a chef's memoir (a new-ish genre exemplified by Gabrielle Hamilton's "Blood, Bones & Butter" and, more recently, April Bloomfield's "A Girl and Her Pig") that reads more like a traditional autobiography, albeit one from a very young author. "When I was coming up cooking," he tells us, "I would have liked to have had a book like this, and not just for cooking. It's the journey of my life, and I want to tell that story."

Your training in Europe sounded brutal. Did it effect how you run your own kitchen?

Yes it was hard, but there was also a lot of love. … Yes, people yelled at me a lot. I also learned a lot, because I loved my craft. Yes it was tough, but I didn't care if somebody yelled at me, as long as I learned. … Process is the most important thing. Especially today, when chef students can travel either themselves, travel through YouTube, travel through online spaces, and see so many things, right? That challenges us as chefs — the whole idea of process. And nothing beats process: the ability to fall in love with something you did many, many times over.

You write about disguising exotic ingredients when you took over Aquavit. Are diners more adventurous now?

Yes, and the high-end guest is also more diverse. When I started cooking, there was one guest: a 55-year-old male businessman. Today, customers are much more diverse — it can be a 22-year-old woman that comes from Singapore, and for her, usually there's nothing new. So, because customers are more diverse, what our customers are asking us for is evolving. If you look at a classic fish restaurant today, it's not so much European- or American-focused as it was 20 years ago. It's lighter; it's brighter. And it's better food that way.

Are 55-year-old-businessmen now seeking out exotic flavors?

Absolutely. … I think the diner is more fun because there's much more reflection of real life. There are women, there are people of color, of all religions — [fine dining] is a diverse environment.

What flavors inspire you now?

The core of me as a chef is that I'm very curious, and I think that's the most important thing — to keep being curious.

Coming to Harlem, coming to Red Rooster, I had to learn about a cuisine that I didn't grow up with — African-American cooking. I had to learn that. … My Swedish side is something I grew up with, but my African and Harlem cuisine that I've been creating here at Rooster — Harlem cuisine — is something I'm still new to. And I love that journey, because I'm going to become really good at that one day, because I work at it every single day. Harlem cuisine will also continue to evolve — the East side of us is Latin and Mexican, there's a Caribbean side, a Dominican side, Italian and Jewish sides, as well as African-Americans. I'm excited about American food. I'm excited locally when I'm here at Harlem, and I feel like I'm chasing those flavors right now.

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Better-tasting veggies

Green vegetables can be a tough sell to many children. If you have a picky eater, help mask flavors with these tips.

- **Sweeten the deal**
  Try adding a touch of sugar to vegetable cooking water. Studies have found that kids like veggies more when they're prepared with a sweetener. Start with half a teaspoon of sugar per cup of vegetables, and reduce that amount a bit each time.
- **Take a dip**
  Serving vegetables with a ranch-dressing dip helped bitter-sensitive children increase veggie consumption by 80 percent, found one study. Encourage your kid to give them a dunk in low-fat salad dressing, hummus or applesauce.

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▶ Dip may tempt kids to eat the good stuff.

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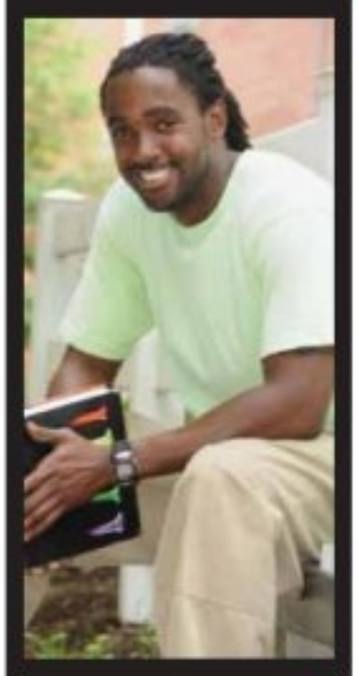

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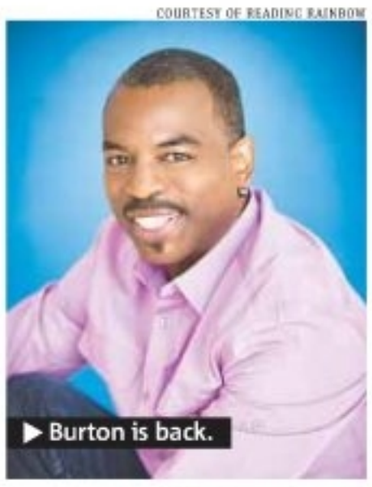
LeVar Burton talks 'Reading Rainbow'

Even though "Reading Rainbow" is no longer on the airwaves, the children's program has not run its course. Released only Wednesday, the "Reading Rainbow" iPad app became the No. 1 educational app in less than two days. LeVar Burton, the app's host (and the co-founder and curator-in-chief for RRKidz, Inc., the company behind it) catches us up with the series' quick turnaround for the newest generation.


COURTESY OF READING RAINBOW

▶ Burton is back.

How soon after "Reading Rainbow" stopped airing did you know you needed to adapt it to a new medium?

Fairly immediately. All the press that it got, and that sort of public outcry, was surprising. It really got our attention. We thought, it's not over for this brand. It's ripe for a reinvention of itself, and we started focusing on it immediately.

Why is now the right time to bring the show back?

I think it's just that weird confluence of a lot of factors. When we began this journey, the iPad hadn't even come out yet. And when it did, it really helped inform what we were in the process of figuring out. Another one of the factors is that there is a whole generation of adults now who grew up on this show, and they really want something that they can share with their kids that they feel good about — that in a world of increasing proliferation of devices and technology, there is at least one thing they can rely on that is good for their kids. Back in the day, your parents didn't need to know what program you were watching if the channel was tuned to PBS, right? And that is what I believe we represent to folks, and our kids as a new enrichment plan for children and their families.

How can parents get their children to enjoy reading?

Find out what your kid loves and get your kid reading material on that subject. It's pretty darn simple.

Talkin' tech

How is technology changing the reading experience for kids today?

I think the reading experience itself, the idea of sitting down, whether it's in a book or on an electronic device, and engaging yourself in a narrative, that will never change. Storytelling will never go out of style. Neither will the human desire to travel in our imaginations through good books. It doesn't matter whether it's on a device or in a booklet. I believe we will reach, probably in the not-too-distant future, a decision that it doesn't make much sense anymore to tear down trees to make books. Books will become more rare, they will become more precious to us. But I don't think we'll ever see a world where there are no printed books. I do believe we will come to consume most of the literature we read on an electronic device.

JOANIE FERGUSON
letters@metro.us

Parenting notes

An easy way to do some good

Yogurt folks Stonyfield have launched the Stonyfield Food Superheroes campaign in an effort to raise funds for FoodCorps, a nonprofit that sends volunteers to underserved schools to teach kids about healthy eating. All you have to do is create a Stonyfield Food Superhero alias at www.iwillknowmyfood.com. For every profile made, Stonyfield will donate $1 to FoodCorps. Spread the word — the goal is to raise $50,000.

Tell your pregnancy story

Moms, how did you find out you were pregnant? If you used an e.p.t. pregnancy test, the company wants to hear from you. You can win a $50 gift card or even a trip to Jamaica just by sharing your e.p.t. moment at www.facebook.com/myept. Tori Spelling is the face of the campaign; during her latest pregnancy, she gave her hubby the positive e.p.t. test for Valentine's Day.

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Letters

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We're all one big family

RE: "LET'S TAKE CARE OF OUR OWN FIRST, THEN HELP OTHERS": The analogy comparing Obama to a parent who feeds strangers before his kids is completely wrong. If you want to look at the president as a parent and U.S. citizens as children, then illegal immigrants are his step-children. I understand taking care of your own children first, but a good parent will be fair and take care of all the children living under his roof, just like a good president takes care of all the people living in his country. As a citizen or a biological child, you will get more rights or love from your parent — but let's not be cruel to our fellow countrymen, they have to live, too.

President Obama was right for what he did. Congress had time to act, and it didn't. Children of immigrants were not granted amnesty, just working papers and a chance to live here legally.

DEXTER RODRIGUEZ, VIA E-MAIL

Tweaks still needed on health care

I don't understand why Obama did not make health care like Medicare Part D. You are not forced by law to buy insurance; however, when you do, since one way or the other you will need medication, you pay a lifetime penalty — that may increase — that is added to your monthly premium. Et voila, that way the Commerce Clause is not being violated, Big Pharma makes load of money since there is no price control, the government deficit increases and, after all this, the public is being told to vote Republican to decrease taxes on the same Big Pharma — and that will create jobs, thereby reducing, with tax revenues, the ever-increasing deficit. Maybe the constitutional scholars on this page can elaborate: Is this treason or what, and where do our rights come from?

SUZY SANDOR, VIA E-MAIL

Economy requires more attention

President Obama is dragging his feet in getting the economy back to normal. He seems satisfied with a low-performing economy and is allowing it to stagnate as the United States economy did during the great depression.

What needs to be done is simple to accomplish. First, we need to reduce the workforce. This means to reduce immigration into the United States. Secondly, we need to reduce the number of working individuals in the workforce. By this I mean reduce the number of individuals in a household that are working. If this means that the women return to their former duties or if the provider is decided by the best-educated of the unit, so be it.

Third, the government needs to push the private sector to hire, even if there is no need at present. If done by the entire sector, then demand will increase, because money will be available.

People with disposable incomes do generate a strong economy. The private sector has a history of requiring government to give special treatment to them and then enriching their own bank accounts at the expense of the lower working classes and the economy.

HENRY T. GAUDSMITH, VIA E-MAIL

E-mail your letters: letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Chances are, feelings of superiority will cause you to lower your guard at the wrong time, and could induce you to underestimate the opposition. It's likely to be your downfall.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** There are indications that sometime early in the day you could have a disagreement with a friend over something utterly insignificant. Once the dust settles, resolve the matter promptly.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** It might be unwise to mix business with pleasure. Those with whom you're doing business might not be able to distinguish between the two, and could end up not taking you seriously.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Trust your decisions when it comes to a partnership situation. Chances are they will be superior to those of your cohort, especially when it comes to commercial or financial matters.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** A failure on your part to honor a commitment could create ill feelings between you and a co-worker. Try to make up for it in the near future.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Lady Luck is likely to intervene on your behalf, but she might not be operating on your timetable. Try to pay closer attention to what she is doing and don't get too far in front of her.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** The longer you haggle over a matter, the less likely you are to make a good deal. Be fair going in.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Don't despair if an objective that you're striving for is not achieved on your first try. You might have to regroup several times to figure out how to get what you want.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Be careful of what you guarantee on an impulse, because it will be taken seriously. If you really didn't mean to give that much, you'll regret it later when you have to pay up.

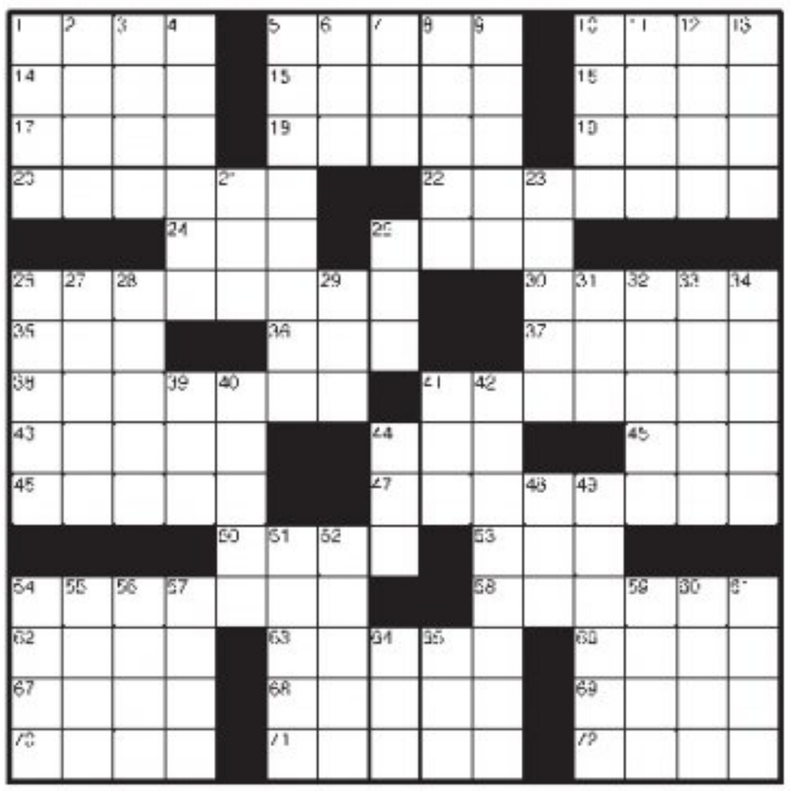
♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Because of your pleasant and considerate manner, friends will enjoy your company. However, your family might not get to see the same sterling facets of your personality.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** You'll be much more fortunate allowing matters to run their own course. If you interfere with people or events, you could derail something good that's in the process of happening.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Associate with those who are fully prepared to pay their own share while avoiding individuals who always seem to misplace their wallets when it comes time to pay the bill.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Across
1 Cocoon dweller
5 Brother's daughter
10 Lavish party
14 Footnote abbr. (2 wds.)
15 Mad Dog __ (Bogart role)
16 Not if __ __ help it!
17 Devers of track
18 Tatum or Ryan
19 Move like a bat
20 Tempura morsel
22 Far-out planet
24 Always, to Poe
25 Horrible boss
26 Wayne's world? (2 wds.)
30 Library tome
35 Bravo, in Baja
36 Pistachio
37 Cook, as a goose
38 Godzilla or Rodan
41 Hieroglyphics stone
43 Mr. Kostelanetz
44 Dune buggy kin
45 Joule fraction
46 Twangy, as a voice
47 Kids' game
50 Young fellas
53 Aloha token
54 Stylish beard
58 Glittering toppers
62 Disfigure
63 Boadicea's people
66 Weather grp.
67 Ocean predator
68 Prey grabber
69 Fishing float
70 Roly-__
71 Still in the game
72 Just scrapes by



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1 Fastens down a tent
2 Jazz's home
3 Au __ (nanny)
4 In the pact
5 Synthetic rubber
6 Author __ Fleming
7 Prior to
8 Trolley sound
9 Conger catcher
10 Birthday buy
11 Rights org.
12 Reposed
13 __ up (pay)
21 Pet plea
23 Fall fruits
25 Hall-of-Famer Mel --
26 Amazon, e.g.
27 Ms. Massey
28 Advances
29 Big __, Calif.
31 Familiar digit
32 Down the road
33 Texas athlete
34 Grid coach Amos Alonzo __
39 Tijuana "Mrs."
40 Londoner's tube
41 AAA suggestion
42 Chocolate drink
44 Pacino and Unser
48 Canadian prov.
49 Future groom
51 Watchdog breed
52 Window sticker
54 Brandy bottle letters
55 A phobia lead-in
56 Salt's formula
57 Farm wagon
59 Swindle
60 Berne's river
61 Fifth Avenue name
64 Cotton gin name
65 30-day mo.

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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		3		7	9		5	2
		1						
1				2	7		4	
7								9
	9		4	5				8
						6		
9	3		5	6		8		
6			2		4		3	

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS: WWW.METRO.US/PUZZLES

Solution to Monday's crossword

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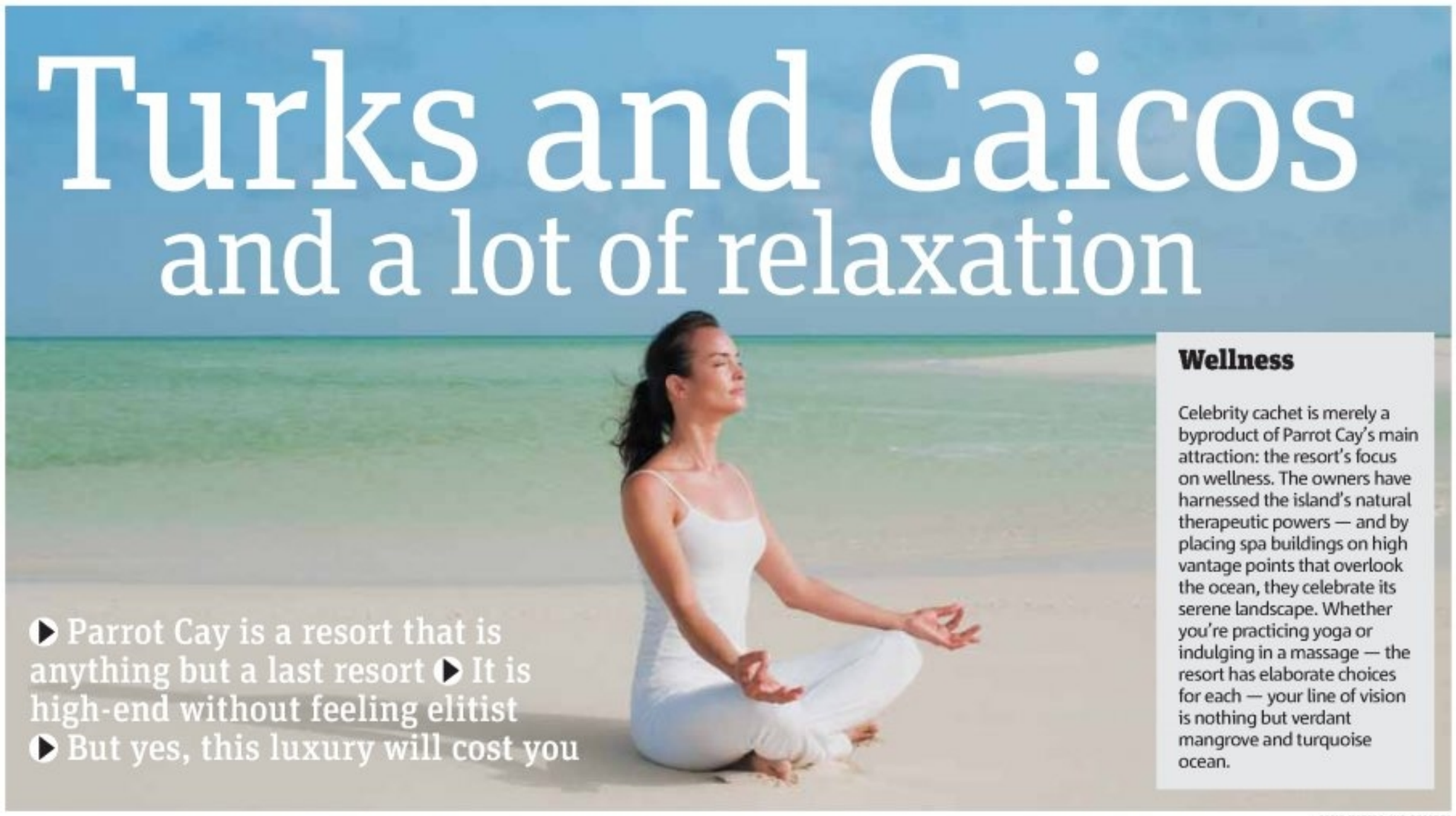
Turks and Caicos
and a lot of relaxation



▶ Parrot Cay is a resort that is anything but a last resort ▶ It is high-end without feeling elitist ▶ But yes, this luxury will cost you

COMO HOTELS AND RESORTS

Wellness

Celebrity cachet is merely a byproduct of Parrot Cay's main attraction: the resort's focus on wellness. The owners have harnessed the island's natural therapeutic powers — and by placing spa buildings on high vantage points that overlook the ocean, they celebrate its serene landscape. Whether you're practicing yoga or indulging in a massage — the resort has elaborate choices for each — your line of vision is nothing but verdant mangrove and turquoise ocean.

Soothing scent

It's worth noting that the inside of every building on Parrot Cay smells like a combination of lavender, peppermint and eucalyptus. You'll want to inhale deeply each time you come inside.

One problem with vacationing at a resort is that you don't always get an accurate feel for the part of the world you're visiting. There's an unavoidable suspicion that as you sit poolside, sipping some alcohol-infused slush, listening to carefully programmed steel drum songs (which could also be described as alcohol-infused slush) that the real culture is pulsating a few miles away. With the island of Parrot Cay in Turks and Caicos, this is not the case, because the resort here is the culture — and it's thriving.

The small island, owned by COMO Hotels and Resorts, is preserved in a state of natural beauty. Lush native flowers abound and there is hardly a place where you're not able to see the Technicolor blue waters of the Caribbean. At its peak population there will only be about 250 people on the island. Among those 250 just happen to be people like Keith Richards, Bruce Willis, Christie Brinkley and Donna Karan.

Cuisine: Parrot Cay's elaborate wellness program (see sidebar) extends to the cuisine at Parrot Cay. In addition to a regular menu, which features plenty of decadent choices that you'd hope for on vacation, the restaurants offer what they call a Como Shambala menu. This alternate delivers healthy options that don't preclude deliciousness. For breakfast, try the sweet corn hotcakes with smoked salmon, avocado, roast tomatoes and cottage cheese. There's no pressure to participate in any of the wellness agenda; it's just a means by which to achieve relaxation, which is easy to do here with or without it.

▶ If you sleep in an ocean-facing room, one of the cheaper accommodations available, this could be your view.

COMO HOTELS AND RESORTS

Accomodation

Even when Parrot Cay is at capacity, it still feels empty as you walk miles of sugary beach. Staying at Parrot Cay is not exactly cheap, but the rates are at their lowest right now through November (triple-digit temps are the norm during this part of the year, and hurricane season comes in early fall). As for the prices, the lowest tier are the veranda rooms and suites. A garden-view room starts at $500 per night and can easily accommodate a couple and two small children. The next tier, beach houses and villas, start at $2,000 per night; as the prices go up from there, so does the size of your own private pool and the amount of privacy you have.

Activities: Whether it's the pervasive calming aroma or focus on wellness, most of Parrot Cay's employees exude a chilled-out vibe. You won't see any large signs with rules telling you what not to do, like at some other resorts. You don't even have to sign out the free aquatic gear you use — but if you need instruction on how to use a paddle board, windsurfer or catamaran, the staff is there to assist.

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7-Day Alaska $599* Fr. pp — Ocean View $749* Fr. pp, Balcony $1149* Fr. pp
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3

Opinion

ANGELO CATALDI

THE VOICE OF THE PHILLY SPORTS FAN

SPORTS, EVEN WHEN BAD, ARE A REAL REFUGE

As I lie there helplessly in bed, IVs sticking out of both my arms, I desperately needed a friend. This was my first stay in a hospital, and it would extend for 10 long days, highlighted by a complicated five-hour stomach operation.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages. Opposing viewpoints are welcome. Send submissions to letters@metro.us.

I was terrified. I was detached from everything I knew, everything I loved. Except for sports. Amid the chaos of vital-sign checks every six hours, blood-clot-thinner injections, pill dispensations, there was always sports. After 61 years of using sports as a refuge from real life, I finally got to experience its real value during the worst medical crisis of my life.

I'm OK now, well on the road back after an extremely bumpy ride. Twelve inches of my colon were removed because of an affliction called diverticulitis, which is just another name for the worst stomach pain you could ever imagine. Despite the valiant efforts of my excellent doctors and an extraordinary hospital, these were easily the 10 worst days of my life.

Quoted

No matter how badly the Phils performed, however, their next game was my focus.

My only real refuge was sports — in this case, an abysmal Phillies team playing its worst baseball in at least five years. No matter how badly they performed, however, their next game was my focus, my escape. Many nights, I fell into an uneasy sleep with the late innings droning on in the background. Even in defeat, the games brought me a comfort I never really understood until now.

The day of my operation, on June 7, was especially eventful because I was greeted that morning by the unfathomable news that Eagles president Joe Banner was stepping down. With the antibiotics, the blood thinners and the mood enhancers, I thought I was hallucinating. After that, though, I had something to think about besides the deadly complications that were lurking on the operating table.

I learned a great deal during the crisis. I learned how special people are who dedicate their lives to the sick. I learned just how high my blood pressure can soar when Charlie Manuel does something stupid. Above all, I learned how important sports is to the people who need it the most.

For most of the 40 years of my professional life, I always assumed that I worked in the toy department. I labored in the frivolous, silly world of fun and games, filled with larger-than-life athletes and "critical" games and "crucial" moments that, in the big picture, are nothing compared to the trials of real life.

How wrong I was. Toward the end of my ordeal, when I was trudging up and down the hallways, IV pole in hand, I couldn't help but notice how many TVs were tuned to sports. The Phillies may be a huge disappointment this year, but they are still heroes in hospitals.

I suppose the memory of this nightmare will fade over time, but I doubt the lesson will. Sports will always be a sweet diversion, but it is more than that to me now. It is a friend you can depend on when you truly need one the most.

*– **Angelo Cataldi** is the host of 94 WIP's Morning Show, which airs weekdays 5:30 to 10 a.m.*

Chase Valley

IronPigs sold out for Utley

Chase Utley will suit up for Triple-A Lehigh Valley tonight. The game is sold out, according to the team.

Utley is making a rehab assignment for the IronPigs when they host Rochester at 7:05 p.m. Tickets were all gone by yesterday in early afternoon.

It is also John Mayberry Jr. bobblehead night at Coca-Cola Park in Allentown.

SPORTS@METRO.US

GOT AN OPINION? SEND US YOUR THOUGHTS

Looking at Banner's legacy

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Banner

Joe Banner presided over a remarkable era of Eagles football, and his legacy is equally extraordinary. The Eagles president brought unprecedented success to our most beloved sports franchise — and somehow managed to alienate an entire city in the process.

Normally, Philadelphia is as much a bottom-line sports city as any in America. In that regard, Banner delivered an annual title contender, intriguing players and a brand-new stadium. He also managed the salary cap better than any executive in any sport, and he made his boss, Jeff Lurie, a billionaire.

That impressive résumé should get him another opportunity to capture that elusive championship. Or will it? Before his new employer entrusts Banner with another sports franchise, he will have to deal with the man's uncanny ability to infuriate the very customers he is supposed to please.

Even at the end, Banner managed to say precisely the wrong thing in looking back on his unpopularity, blaming most of it on a media conspiracy to sully his image. He accepted almost none of the blame for the insulting remarks and smug attitude that punctuated his 17-year tenure.

The sad part is that Banner should be remembered for his business savvy, for his ability to field a winning team, and for leaving the Eagles in much better shape than when he got here. Instead, his legacy will be that of a man respected by many, but liked by no one.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Cliff Lee has been a colossal waste of money.

Phils lack urgency

The Phillies have lacked offense, defense and good pitching, but something even more important is threatening to ruin the season. They are showing no urgency to fix their problems.

And that problem starts right at the top, where GM Ruben Amaro Jr. has done nothing to prop up a roster ravaged by injuries and slumps. Kyle Kendrick and Joe Blanton are simply not good enough for a team with championship aspirations. Michael Schwimer and Joe Savery are not major league pitchers. Michael Martinez is an everyday second baseman only on a very bad team.

Meanwhile, Charlie Manuel has made no adjustments to this season of disappointment. The manager has blown at least half a dozen games just by restricting the use of closer Jonathan Papelbon to three-out saves.

Shane Victorino has been undisciplined. Hunter Pence has proven he is no star. Cliff Lee has been the biggest waste of money in Phillies history. Only one player, Carlos Ruiz, has responded to the adversity.

The Phillies may still be able to save this season, but not until they experience a radical change in attitude. It's time to play like there's no tomorrow. Because for this team, this era, there truly is no tomorrow.

Idle thoughts from Cataldi

1 **Where's the Chooch love?** Philadelphia is an amazing sports city, but not when it comes to all-star voting. Carlos Ruiz currently ranks third in fan polling at catcher, even though he has been far superior to front-runners Buster Posey and Yadier Molina. Chooch deserves more from us than this.

2 **Guilty, guilty, guilty, guilty.** Just one question after the Jerry Sandusky verdict: How could such a sick and stupid man topple an entire community, a major university and a legendary coach? Here's the answer: Because no one had the courage to stop him. Shame on all the cowards who enabled this.

3 **Nice knowing you, Shane.** Shane Victorino's testy exchange with the media last week sealed it for me. As much as I want the Phils to keep Cole Hamels, I'd like Victorino gone, as soon as possible. The center fielder is baseball's version of Andre Iguodala — million-dollar talent, 10-cent brain.

Byrd tests positive for banned drug

Former Phillies outfielder Marlon Byrd has been suspended 50 games after testing positive for a banned substance. During spring training, he had admitted to working with BALCO founder Victor Conte. BALCO was at the heart of the Barry Bonds' investigation.

Byrd, who was released by the Boston Red Sox earlier this month, has been placed on the restricted list until Aug. 20. He was found guilty of using Tamoxifen, a drug used to treat and prevent forms of breast cancer.

Byrd will not appeal the ruling. "I will serve my suspension, continue to work hard and hope that I am given an opportunity to help a club win later this season," he said in a statement. METRO

NBA. Champions

▶ LeBron James celebrates his first ring yesterday.

GETTY IMAGES

Heat throw championship party

Four days after winning his first NBA title, LeBron James and the Miami Heat partied in South Beach. Hundreds of thousands lined the streets to congratulate their heroes, then 15,000 filled the arena. "This was my dream, right here, to be able to hoist that Larry O'Brien trophy up," James said.

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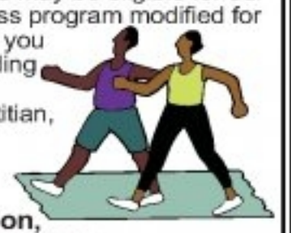

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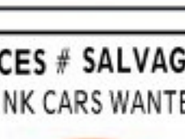

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